Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of treating a human suffering from a meningitis, encephalitis, or meningo-encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection, comprising administering to the human intravenously or subcutaneously or a combination thereof ~~to the human~~ an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 24 (previously amended): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human for 14 days.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein acetaminophen is given to the human 30 minutes before the interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of treating a human suffering from meningo-encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection, comprising administering to the

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human intravenously or subcutaneously or a combination thereof ~~to the human~~ an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose intravenously, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours subcutaneously.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human for 14 days.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein acetaminophen is given to the human 30 minutes before the interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of treating a human suffering from encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection, comprising administering to the human intravenously or subcutaneously or a combination thereof ~~to the human~~ an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the

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interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose intravenously, then 3 million units subcutaneously every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human for 14 days.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 32, wherein acetaminophen is given to the human 30 minutes before the interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A method of treating a human suffering from meningitis caused by a West Nile virus infection, comprising administering to the human intravenously or subcutaneously or a combination thereof ~~to the human~~ an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 38, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose intravenously, then 3 million units subcutaneously every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 40 (new): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose intravenously, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours subcutaneously.

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